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Mr H. Burnie, chairman of the organizing Committee, reported that the Royal School of Mines Old Students' Association had passed a resolution giving support to the proposal. The chairman then formally moved that the petition be signed and forwarded to the governors of the college. Captain E. G. Lawford, in seconding the resolution, declared that the time had come when it was absolutely impossible for the Imperial College to carry on exactly as it was now. The reconstruction of London University had been approved, and would be undertaken very shortly; and in that reconstruction the Imperial College was bound to become involved. This would be disastrous to the college. The Imperial College was now standing on the brink of an upheaval, and unless a very strong line was taken it was bound to lose its own identity. By absorption, the college would lose control of its own funds—and of its syllabus, and of its identity as the Imperial College.

#### CLASSIFICATION OF LANDS BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SECRETARY LANE reports that definite progress was made in the month of January, 1919, in the classification of lands effected by the Geological Survey of the Interior Department. The principal action affecting mineral lands was the restoration of somewhat more than 773,000 acres in North Dakota. These lands lie in the lignite area of that state and the government still owns coal in only a relatively small proportion of those restored. As to this proportion, the restoration will permit the purchase of these lands or of the coal within them at prices of \$10 and \$20 per acre.

A portion of the results of last summer's field work in the examination of the question of irrigability of western lands appears in orders approved during January which designated somewhat more than 1,000,000 acres for entry under the so-called enlarged-homestead act, the principal requirement under this act being that the lands shall be nonirrigable. The areas designated by states appear in the following table:

	Acres
Idaho .....	10,840
Montana .....	17,876
Oregon .....	39,720
South Dakota .....	211,331
Wyoming .....	726,131
Total .....	1,005,898

Similar progress was manifested during January in rendering lands available for entry in tracts of 640 acres each under the stock-raising homestead law. Somewhat more than 940,000 acres were designated during the month under this act. These lands are distributed as indicated in the table below:

	Acres
Arizona .....	47,020
California .....	97,332
Colorado .....	91,097
Kansas .....	17,100
New Mexico .....	392,320
Oklahoma .....	4,998
Oregon .....	57,500
Wyoming .....	234,050
Total .....	941,417

The total area thus far designated by the secretary for entry under the stockraising homestead act is now a little more than 13,500,000 acres. This work has been accomplished in the slightly more than 19 months since Congress first made provision for the administration of the stock-raising homestead act. After that provision was made, the force for the classifications had to be organized, the principles of classification determined, the lands examined, decisions reached as to their character, and the orders of designation issued.

#### CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

THE United States Civil Service Commission announces open competitive examinations for scientific positions as follows:

*Department of the Interior:* Geological Survey: Geologic aid, March 12-13, \$90 a month to \$1,440 a year; assistant geologist, March 12-13, \$1,500 to \$1,800 a year. Indian Service: Oil and gas inspector, March 25, \$1,500 to \$1,800 a year. Public Health Service: Statistical clerk, March 26, \$1,000 to \$1,800 a year. Patent Office: Assistant ex-